



Meera Kohler
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Communities Served

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alakanuk | Nightmute |
| Ambler | Noatak |
| Andreafsky | Noorvik |
| Anvik | Nulato |
| Brevig Mission | Nunapitchuk |
| Chevak | Old Harbor |
| Eek | Pilot Station |
| Elim | Pitkas Point |
| Emmonak | Quinhagak |
| Gambell | Russian Mission |
| Goodnews Bay | St. Mary's |
| Grayling | St. Michael |
| Holy Cross | Savoonga |
| Hooper Bay | Scammon Bay |
| Huslia | Selawik |
| Kaltag | Shageluk |
| Kasigluk | Shaktoolik |
| Kiana | Shishmaref |
| Kivalina | Shungnak |
| Kotlik | Stebbins |
| Koyuk | Teller |
| Lower Kalskag | Togiak |
| Marshall | Toksook Bay |
| Mekoryuk | Tununak |
| Minto | Upper Kalskag |
| Mt. Village | Wales |
| New Stuyahok | |



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AK-105

Haiti Disaster Could Happen Here

The devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12 was yet another reminder that Mother Nature can wreak disaster on us at any moment. Five years ago, it was Indonesia. In 1964, it was Alaska.

Do you have a plan in case disaster strikes? How long can you go without electricity and heat? If airplanes are unable to fly for a week or more, will your community have enough food and supplies to see you through?

All three of the earthquakes mentioned above occurred in the winter. We all need to be ready to deal with a disaster at any time. Be sure that you and your family have a plan to cope with a disaster. Don't be caught unprepared.

New Chief at the Denali Commission

Joel Neimeyer, formerly with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), was recently confirmed as the federal co-chairman of the Denali Commission. Joel was assigned to the Denali Commission by ANTHC several years ago and has a great deal of experience working with our rural Alaskan communities. I look forward to working with Joel and I am pleased his name was forwarded by U.S. Sen. Mark Begich to fill this important position.

Rate Reduction

The electric bill you will receive this month reflects a lower cost of electricity. The AVEC Board of Directors conducted a public hearing on the proposed tariff change January 8, and later in that meeting unanimously approved the 2 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction. This action lowers AVEC's annual revenue by \$1.4 million and reflects the savings we are enjoying from the millions of dollars of generation plant that federal grants have made possible.

The primary contributors to this success are the Denali Commission and the Rural Utilities Service—and we at AVEC salute these two organizations for all they have done for our communities.

Scholarships and Training Opportunities

Look inside this edition of Ruralite magazine for information on AVEC's scholarship program and careers in our electric industry. We recently hired one of our former power plant operators as a full-time field technician and are looking for other village residents that may be interested in pursuing careers with AVEC.

Changes Under Way at AVEC

Sadly, we will lose two longtime AVEC employees to retirement soon. Kathryn Richards, the familiar voice who has greeted our consumers and visitors for 20 years, will be bidding us farewell this month. Give her a call before she leaves—I know she's going to miss all of you.

Georgia Shaw, who has been our member services manager for decades, also will retire in early April. Between Georgia and Kathryn, we are losing more than 50 years of dedication and experience and they will be sorely missed. They will leave big shoes for their successors to fill and we all wish them the very best.

Finally, we are making some modest changes at AVEC for the first time in more than 30 years. We are expanding our building to create more office space. When the building was built in the late 1970s, we had fewer than two-thirds the number of employees we currently have and fewer than half the consumers. We have remodeled and rearranged and have finally run out of options. Construction should be complete by the end of this year. We invite you to stop by and check out the changes.

Until next time

Meera Kohler
President and CEO